UTICA GETS MEMED

Hamilton alums build beer-themed t-shirt brand. See more on **page 8**.

SAMSON ET DELILA

Renowned operatic singer joins Hamilton Choir and Chorale. Read more on **page 11**.

SHOOT FOR THE STARS

Read about champion pole vaulters Jimmy Alexis '13 and Hannah Jaiven '14 on **pages 15 and 16**.

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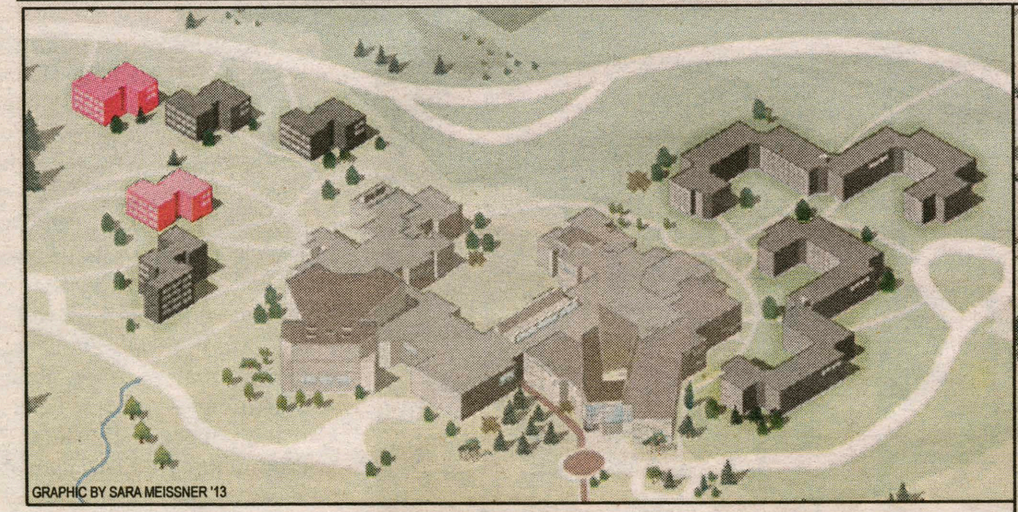
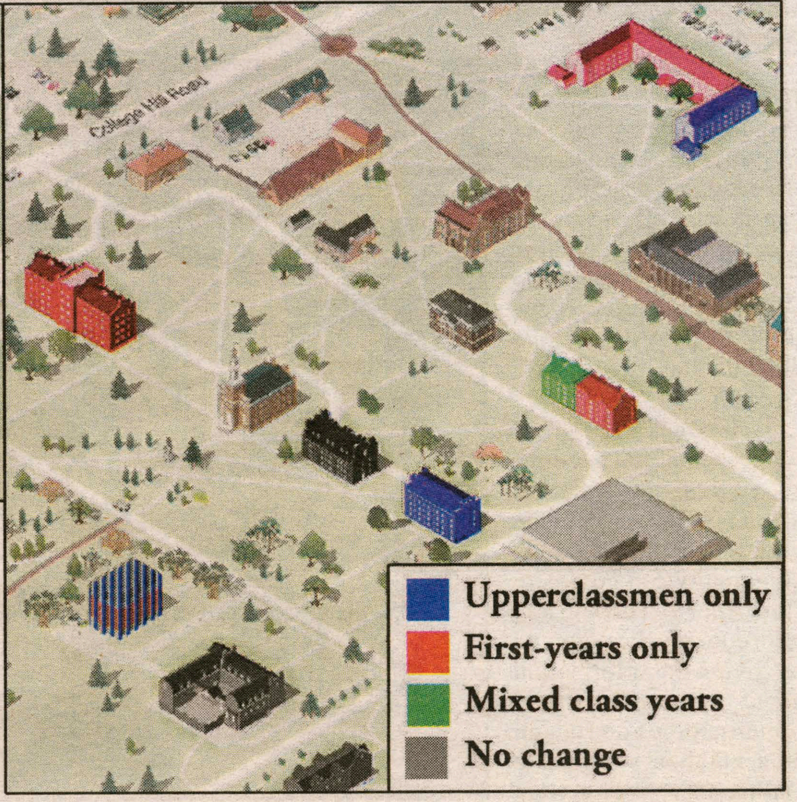
THE SPECTATOR
Thursday,
May 2, 2013
Volume LIII Number 23



GRAPHIC BY SARA MEISSNER '13



🟦 Upperclassmen only
🟥 First-years only
🟩 Mixed class years
▨ No change

FALLOUT:

Housing changes awaken apathetic students

by Emily Moore '15
Production Editor

All year, the First-Year Experience Committee has been hard at work reconfiguring housing assignments for incoming students to improve the qualities of their lives on the Hill. However, it wasn't until last week that the discussion became widespread—sweeping campus and riling up students who felt that adjustments to the current organization of students on campus could compromise their own happiness at Hamilton.

At this week's Student Assembly meeting, Assistant Dean of Students for Residential Life Travis Hill and Senior Associate Dean of Students for Strategic Initiatives Meredith Bonham were present to discuss the upcoming housing changes. At an unusually well-attended meeting, Hill and Bonham outlined modifications students can expect to see in the fall of 2014. The aim of the housing adjustments is to create first-year clusters. These clusters are intended to facilitate class unity, build community and put together first-years who are all going through the same experience of being at college for the first time. This would also allow Hamilton to expand the REAL program, the demand for which has been rapidly increasing. Another goal of the changes is to decrease alcohol culture among first-years at Hamilton, who drink less than students at peer universities before matriculation, but report drinking more after coming to Hamilton. First-year designated clusters would be Major, Keehn, South, Wertimer, Carnegie's third and fourth floors and Dunham's basement, first floor and second floor. Carnegie's first and second floors would be designated during the fall semester for students planning to study abroad in the spring, and for January admits in the spring.

Many students have expressed outrage over this plan, and showed up at the Student Assembly meeting to discuss their frustration over the housing changes and the manner in which they were made. The loss of Carnegie, a desirable upperclassman residence hall, seems to have galvanized Hamilton students. The Major faculty apartment, and likely the faculty apartment in Keehn as well, will be renovated into doubles for first-years. Ultimately, this housing plan leaves very few quads for upperclassmen.

Those present at the meeting raised several concerns about putting these quads in the hands of first-years. They argued that a quad in Carnegie or South does not really encourage students to get to know others in their hall (one of the big aims of the housing plan) because there is little reason to leave one's room, and that instead of discouraging underage drinking, this encourages it, as Carnegie and South quad common rooms have ample space for parties.

Bonham and Hill responded by saying that they were focusing on other issues when selecting dorms, and the decision largely came down to numbers. Bonham explained "we decided that our parameters would be: 1) preserve as many singles as possible for upperclassmen and 2) spread first-year housing across campus. In doing so, we also hoped to minimize the disruption to upperclassmen as much as possible. Finally, we had to be realistic about costs, which focused us on those residence halls that would require the least amount of renovations to accommodate first-year students." Under this plan, upperclassmen will lose less than 83 singles. However, with the potential loss of downtown housing and 3394 and 4002 College Hill Road, students are worried about the loss of singles as well as quads.

Students also expressed dissatisfaction with the process by which the decision was made, claiming that they did not have enough input about these changes, or receive enough information about them. Bonham responded to these accusations by saying, "We were highly intentional in gathering community input, because we knew that faculty, staff and student perspectives would inform our thinking and strengthen our recommendations. To that end, we coordinated brown-bag discussions, held a discussion with RAs, met with Student Assembly, and arranged many other meetings with faculty and key staff members ... Travis Hill and I asked to meet with Student Assembly so we could discuss the report and the housing changes, and did so on October 1, 2012. That information was included in the Student Assembly minutes, which also appended a copy of the FYE report." Whether or not students took advantage of it, it is indisputable that the information was available. And so students have turned to criticizing the administration for not providing better publicity for the plan, and more actively seeking feedback from students.

After the meeting, responses showed up quickly. Posts in various Hamilton College class-year Facebook groups criticized the decisions and the reason of the plan, and a change.org petition was created early on Tuesday. The petition expresses the feeling that these changes to benefit the first-years come at the expense of older students, stating "it does not make sense to current students that the quality of the freshman experience would not take other factors into account." The petition also expresses willingness to compromise, so long as student voices are being heard. "Students would like to work with the administration to create a new plan that will improve quality of living for freshman without diminishing the Hamilton experience for upperclassmen. The student body is willing to make many changes, however, not some of the ones that have been proposed." In addition, there will be a student-run, students-only meeting led by Student Assembly President Anthony Jackson '15 held Wednesday night to discuss this issue and relations in general with the administration. At the Student Assembly meeting, Hill and Bonham indicated that all changes to housing were final, though programming for first-years was still negotiable. Architects had been consulted and plans were being drawn up. In the aftermath, however, it appears that there may, in fact, be room for change. Bonham stated, "the overarching goal of the FYE Committee was to improve the college transition for future Hamilton students. Having heard the comments expressed at Monday's Student Assembly meeting, we are exploring the feasibility of an alternative option that would still accomplish the aims of the first-year housing program while addressing concerns about upperclass student housing options." This possibility, however small, should be encouraging to the students so virulently opposed to this plan.

This Wednesday, following the contentious housing debates, Jackson and Vice President Sarah Larson '15 held a meeting to discuss the upcoming changes. They also brought to the table an explanation of a compromise offered to them Wednesday afternoon: remove Carnegie from proposed first-year housing, keep South as it is and convert North and Wallace Johnson into first-year housing. Some students are still unhappy that they seem to have had no dialogue in the discussion. Jackson intends to hold another meeting to discuss whether or not to accept this compromise. In the event that Student Assembly rejects the compromise, Jackson believes that students must put forth another concrete alternative.

HEAG and Slow Food team up for "Green Week"

by Jack Cartwright '15
News Editor

In an effort to "Go Green" and promote a pro-environmental agenda, the Hamilton Environmental Awareness Group (HEAG) and Hamilton College Slow Food launched their first ever "Green Week" last week to coincide with Earth Day, which took place last Monday.

PHOTO BY KEVIN PRIOR '13

Trivia contestants last week put their knowledge about the environment to the test.

The members of HEAG and Slow Food decided to come together in order to demonstrate the idea that going green can impact all aspects of a person's life, including the food they prepare and consume. Thus, why the week's motto was "Live Green. Eat Green. Go Green."

The week was packed with events and lectures as well as information about how members of the greater Hamilton College community can go green: Bon Appetit participated with cooking displays and by giving out information about "low-carbon" food options; Slow Food taught students about sustainable eating; there was a Glen Clean Up Walk; lecturer Tony Wies spoke about "the Meat of the Global Food Crisis;" Trivia Night had an environmental theme; there was a screening of the movie *If a Tree Falls*; there was a "Pledge to Go Veg!" day on Wednesday where McEwen only served vegetarian options for lunch, and the environmental groups asked people to pledge to be vegetarian that day and provided people with information about environmental hazards that related to meat; Connie Schreppel Ph.D., Director of Water Quality, gave a PowerPoint presentation in the Taylor Science Center about the safety of drinking water in the Mohawk Valley and in support of HEAG's "Take Back the Tap" campaign; there also was an event on the Hamilton Community Farm. Throughout the entire week, there was a clothing exchange in Beinecke to trade used clothing, and all leftover clothing was donated.

HEAG President Nora Boylan '15 said that the goal of Green Week was to raise awareness about sustainability. "A lot of members of our community are passionate about the Earth and we wanted a week where we could encourage those people to participate in activities and share their thoughts, complaints or ideas," she said. Alicia Rost '15, a member of the executive board of HEAG, added to what Boylan said. "We tried to do a variety of events so people could see all of the ways the environment is being damaged and that as a consumer we have a lot of power. We have the power to make ethical decisions on a daily basis, what we eat, what we wear, what we do, etc.," said Rost. She added that she thought that current habits of humans are not sustainable, and they wanted to educate students and faculty on what they can do to change their habits in environmentally friendly ways.

Seniors Ellie Fausold '13 and Lauren Howe '13, executive members of Slow Food expressed similar sentiments. "At the end of last semester, we began brainstorming ways to get the word out about the Real Food Challenge initiative that we have started up on campus, which aims to increase the budget percentage of community based, ecologically sound, fair, and humane food served in the campus dining halls," said Fausold. Some of the main issues with food production, according to Fausold, include: "extreme droughts caused by climate change result in a lessened food supply; trucks, etc. transporting food that travels hundreds or thousands of miles to reach its final destination emit greenhouse gases, and the food also loses nutrients by the time it reaches consumers; large portions of rainforests are being cut down in order to make room to plant major cash crops such as soy; some types of large farming operations can degrade soil quality and speed up soil erosion."

Howe said that she thought Green Week had a lot of potential to improve the understanding Hamilton College students have about the choices they make when they eat. "For instance, Bon Appétit's Low Carbon Diet Day in conjunction with Tony Weis's 'The Meat of the Global Food Crisis' lecture on Monday (Earth Day), as well as the 'Pledge to go Veg' inform people about the larger ramifications about their food choices—more specifically, the impact of consuming large amounts of industrial meat and dairy on earth's climate by increased carbon emissions and also the ethics and effects on the global South," said Howe. She co-founded Slow Food her sophomore year after being inspired to learn about the ethics of global hunger, industrial agriculture and animal welfare.

Despite the hype of Green Week, some were disappointed in the lack of enthusiasm over the week. "To be honest we have been disappointed with the lack of participation from both members of the club, campus and greater community," said Rost. Whether students learned from the week, or will implement the things that they learned, remains to be seen.

Nevertheless, Rost will continue because she believes that education is the key to reducing our carbon footprint: "I feel education is a very powerful tool and love sharing knowledge and providing opportunities for others to learn about the critical condition the earth is in and how they can help out."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the Campus Safety Incident Report each week. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

1:45 p.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
2:49 p.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – Tolles Pavilion
4:00 p.m.	Sacerdote Great Names Detail – Scott Fieldhouse

Friday, April 26, 2013

12:08 a.m.	Smoke Detector Activation – Bundy West Residence Hall
2:22 a.m.	Suspicious Activity/DWI Arrest – Miller Road
2:54 a.m.	Area Check – Minor Residence Hall
8:53 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
10:57 a.m.	Disabled Vehicle – Peters Lane
12:50 p.m.	Smoke Detector Activation – Dunham Hall
1:35 p.m.	Parking Complaint – Buttrick Hall
10:44 p.m.	Trespass – Campus Road
11:48 p.m.	Area Check – North Parking Lot
11:53 p.m.	Noise Complaint – Major Hall

Saturday, April 27, 2013

12:08 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – List Circle
12:11 a.m.	Hazardous Condition – Babbitt Hall
12:59 a.m.	Area Check – Root/Kirkland Glen
1:39 a.m.	Domestic Dispute – List Art Center Exterior
8:49 a.m.	Concern for Welfare – Residence Hall
11:42 p.m.	Medical Emergency – Howard Diner
11:45 p.m.	Fireworks Complaint – Minor Field

La Vanguardia discusses US diversity

by Kevin Welsh '15
News Writer

Hoping to encourage open dialogue on campus, student group La Vanguardia hosted a panel titled "What Does It Mean to Be American?" on April 30. Vice President Gretha Suarez explained that the panel was meant to provide "an opportunity to talk in a manner thats fluid and organic" about topics she fears are often stigmatized and thusly left undiscussed.

PHOTO BY ALICJA ZAK '15

The panelists represented various cultural backgrounds and experiences.

La Vanguardia is a newly resurrected group on campus that tries to provide discussions of race, culture and identity for students to engage in safely. While their name implies a Latino or Hispanic focus, their conversations never focus on solely those issues. They want all students to feel welcome.

This discussion in particular wrestled with the idea of what it means to be American from the perspectives of faculty, staff and students who were for the most part internationally born. The panel included Professor of Government Alan Cafruny, Professor of Africana Studies Nigel Westmaas, Professor of Hispanic Studies Joana Sabadell-Nieto, Professor of Chinese Ming-De Xu, Chief Diversity Officer Amit Taneja, Assistant to the Chief Diversity Officer Janet Turvey, Visiting Professor of Arabic and Teaching Fellow Fidaa Abuassi and sophomore Sadiq Abubakar.

Professor Cafruny represented the only American born perspective on the panel, though he declined to declare himself American. Cafruny explained, "I like to think of myself as more internationalist," highlighting a main theme of the panel: acceptance of diversity, or maybe the lack thereof in the US.

Each panelist introduced themselves and explained their relationship to the topic. Some, like British-born Turvey explained her linguistic challenges adapting to life in a country she thought she shared a language with. She explained that English is not such a common language when accents and terms don't line up. Other members of the panel discussed broader issues like American ignorance of other cultures.

Professor Ming-De and student Sadiq Abubakar explained that their countries were often misunderstood by Americans. Ming-De explained that he is Taiwanese, but often feels that Americans don't really understand the different between Taiwan and China, despite their cultural and political uniqueness. Abubakar expressed distress over Americans very limited, backwards impression of Africa saying "the level of ignorance is just overwhelming."

On the line of clarifying perceptions, Amit Taneja dismissed the idea of America as the "land of milk and honey." He commented that this prosperous idea of America is "part of a lie" since he feels that in reality The United States is very much the opposite. As someone who's faced consistent racial profiling and witnessed the inequalities of immigrants, Taneja tried to convey his reality of the United States to the audience.

When the panel took comments from students, a lot of response was from students who faced struggles to reconcile their cultures. Many explained that they came from immigrant families who instilled their native cultures in them, but also tried to foster Americanism in them. The conflicted students explained that they felt torn between where they came from and where they were expected to go. Even Professor Saba-dell-Nieto, who has lived in the United States for nearly 30 years, expressed this fear of identity loss. She shared her worry that when she returns to Spain this June she'll experience culture shock. She described that "I have been influence for many years by groups who call themselves American." Even as someone who teaches about its culture, Sabadell-Nieto sometimes feels a disconnect to her own homeland.

Professor Westmass also explained a similar idea of the effect of America on personal culture. Coming from Guyana he lived under British colonial rule for part of his life and also realized that foreigners he "have literacy of America before you get to America" due to the invasive nature of American culture in international media - even living in a foreign country, culture can be affected by America.

Though a silver lining came out of this dialogue. Visiting Professor Abuassi discussed her fears about coming to America as a Palestinian citizen, fearing discrimination from those who found out. Surprisingly, though, she found Americans "are actually ready to listen." The tension between the individual Americans who are welcoming of diversity and the overarching societal norm of accepting culture without ever recognizing each unique one shadowed most of the comments shared at the event. Abuassi demonstrates the capability of Americans to accept difference, though only once actively exposed to the narrative.

Vice President Suarez commented after the meeting that she wishes that "these kind of events give a freedom to share your opinion in a very relaxed manner" whether you're an American or not. With any luck, the wishes of La Vanguardia will be met with the full response of the Hamilton community and the dialogue can continue.

Burns '77 discusses sexual identity at Hamilton

by Jack Cartwright '15
News Editor

"I knew I was gay since I was a really little kid," said Richard Burns. "So Hamilton was a really odd college choice." Burns, a lifelong social justice activist specifically with regard to gay rights, and the executive director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in New York City since December 1986 spoke on Wednesday at a talk titled "A Queer Justice Journey from 1970's Hamilton to our movement today."

Burns has been back to the College several times to speak about his activism. He recalled a time in 1989 when, after he was sitting in a prison cell in Washington D.C. after being arrested in front of the White House for protesting President George H.W. Bush's inadequate response to the AIDS crisis, he was worried he would not be on time for his flight taking him to Hamilton.

He detailed at length what it was like to be like as one of the only openly gay men on Hamilton's campus in the 1970's. He arrived on the Hill and said that there were no openly gay people here that he knew about. "I made a lot of great friends here, but I was a pretty unhappy," said Burns. "By the beginning of my sophomore year I didn't think I could take it anymore hiding who I was."

Then, Burns found, by chance, a poster advertising a gay group on campus. The group was an early meeting of a new "homophile" support group. "It was a 'homophile' group because you could go and not [necessarily] have to be gay," he said. "The group didn't do a lot, but it broke that isolation for me." The group consisted of mainly lesbian women from the Kirkland campus, however.

Then soon afterwards he became the only openly gay man on campus, and, after being interview by *The Spectator*, he became "somewhat known" on campus. "People knew me as 'that tall skinny gay guy,'" he said. He said he was occasionally verbally harassed, and mentioned one instance in which members of the football team stood outside a bathroom he happened to be using while yelling, "Faggot! Faggot! Faggot!" He said that there was never any physical harassment, but nevertheless acknowledged incidents of physical confrontations specifically targeting gay students on campus.

Burns said that the original gay and lesbian group became the Hamilton and Kirkland Gay and Lesbian Alliance. The group was very political, he said. It organized gay dances inviting gay and lesbian groups from Cornell and Syracuse Universities, and coorinated porgramming with speakers and other events.Their advertisements in *The Spectator*'s calendar notices were also considered political. At one point, Dean of Students R. Gordon Bingham called Burns into his office. "I'm getting a lot of pressure to prevent you from using student meeting space," Bingham said according to Burns.

Bingham suggested that the group formally request to become a chartered organization recognized by the student Senate. After great debate, the Senate approved their request. A number of years later, after graduation, a voting member of the Senate contacted Burns. He said he had been in the closet at Hamilton and the Burns' push for a charter gave him hope. It was then when Burns realized "the importance of power and visibility" of the gay and lesbian community.
Overall, he characterized gay and lesbian students' relationship as love-hate: "we got a great education, we made lifelong friends, but it was a very hard place to be."

After leaving Hamilton, Burns moved to Boston to work for the Boston Gay Community News, one of the only gay newspapers in the world. It was there that Burns developed his ideological foundations not only in regard to gay rights, but also in terms of abortion rights and antiracism. The mission of the paper was a "hedonistic and ideological battle against monogamy," and that the gay agenda back then was to "smash the nuclear family and dismantle the military." He joked that now the gay and lesbian movement "fought to serve in the military and we're fighting for marriage equality."

Burns later became the editor of *Gay Community News*, "largely because I [he] had gone through the incredibly torturous [Hamilton] English department." He wanted to point out how different the public viewed the gay rights movement back then by pointing out that in 1982 the *Gay Community News* building was set on fire, yet he boasted that they still did not miss an issue. It was there that he realized that he realized that fighting for LGBT rights was his passion, and that he wanted to pursue it as a career.

"I'm telling the story about this newspaper because I hope that you will find that [your passion] when you leave here," Burns said. "I hope that you will think about where your passion is and where you'll make a difference."

Be the change you want to see on the Hill

Students have been very vocal about the First-Year Experience Committee's proposed housing changes and the surrounding debate. Many feel as though they were not included in the conversation about changes to Residential Life's reorganization of first-years and upperclassmen. They seem to believe that this plan was totally spontaneous, and that the Administration should have done something more to let students know that it was in the works. What, exactly, that something more ought to have been, is unclear. Some students in attendance at Wednesday night's Student Housing Forum called for increased discussion; others, for easier ways to express their opinions.

When something upsets us on the Hill, we're quick to point fingers—both at the Administration and each other. People who feel that certain information was not clearly communicated to them . Those who are actively involved with student government and highly aware of what's happening on campus argue that their peers haven't been involved or outspoken enough. The fact is that students need to stop trying to pass the blame for the negative effects of their apathy or ignorance on to others. Detailed information about this housing plan has been released throughout the year in Student Assembly's weekly minutes emails and in *The Spectator*'s Student Assembly Update. An article also appeared in the October 4 issue of *The Spectator* detailing the adjustments that the First-Year Experience Committee had proposed. Sure, the Administration could have taken even further measures to publicize their decisions, but it remains true that the information was available to everyone on campus, and could be accessed easily.

The time for pointing fingers has passed. We all need to accept that we share little fault in this supposed crisis—we should have watched our inbox a little more carefully, or made a more conscious effort to pay attention to what was going on. We should have spoken up about these changes when we first heard about them in October and made everyone aware of them. We should have worked for change before these proposals got this close to being put in place. Now is not the time for criticism and angry denials of responsibility, but the time for us to work towards a constructive solution that gives us the best options. And we need to remember occasions like this the next time the Administration proposes a change we are not comfortable with.

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication.
The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $60 per year. For more information about subscriptions e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Letters to the Editor

Re: A call to arms for adamant individuals

One particular point in this piece caught my eye: "We are the generation of the information age. With the right key words and a strong internet connection, we could find out anything about pretty much everything… you will be flooded with page after page of information, most of which will be completely irrelevant to what you actually want to know. It takes time and energy to sort through this mish-mash of fact, figures and possible falsities...And, when you've already inhaled all of this information and all of these viewpoints, why would you take the time to come up with an original viewpoint of your own?"

A strategy for handling the constant onslaught of information has been recently proposed by Clay Johnson in his brief and readable work, *The Information Diet: A Case for Conscious Consumption.* From the book jacket: Johnson is best known as the founder of Blue State Digital, the firm that built and managed Barack Obama's online campaign for the presidency in 2008. He states, "Information is just as vital to our survival as the other three things we consume (food, air and water). That's why personal responsibility in an age of mostly free information is vital to individual and social health. If we want our communities and our democracies to thrive, we need a healthier information diet." Johnson's points: The problem is not information overload, it is information overconsumption. The solution is not tools and filters, it is selective habits and healthy choices— balanced information consumption.

He offers tips on "how to consume," and describes some techniques: data literacy (gathering source-level information), attention fitness (strategic allocation of your attention), and a healthy sense of humor. Most interesting to me, he suggests one aspect of an answer to the question posed in the February Opinion piece about "having time and a reason to come up with an original viewpoint of your own."

He describes our "participation gap," and portrays our political information diets as "delivering us the news we want to hear, not the news we should hear, promoting our attachment to the teams of our choosing—the reds vs. the blues, rather than finding the great synthesis of ideas." He suggests that a healthy information diet always starts locally, advises us to 'keep your voice your own" by bypassing the middlemen, and provides some practical suggestions for doing so. A fun read, with some interesting pointers for finding one's (truly informed) individual voice.

—Glynis Asu
Instructional Support Librarian

In response to proposed housing changes:

Even though I am a rising senior and the housing changes being discussed in Student Assembly this week will have no effect on me, I feel obliged to write this Letter to the Editor. Although I understand the Committee on the First-Year Experience's desire to socially integrate incoming freshmen into the Hamilton community, converting six out of Hamilton's twenty-six on-campus Residence Halls into some form of freshmen housing seems inappropriate for two important reasons.

The first reason is that by establishing clusters of freshmen housing, the Committee on the First-Year Experience may actually undermine their goals of socially integrating incoming freshmen into our community by creating housing situations where freshmen potentially socialize amongst themselves at the expense of engaging with the larger Hamilton community.

The second reason is that by converting six out of Hamilton's twenty-six on-campus Residence Halls into some form of freshmen housing, the possibility now exists for upperclassmen with poor Housing Lottery numbers to live in housing that is inferior to their previous underclassmen housing. Based on conversations I've had with current and future upperclassmen, this seems to be a major violation of one of Hamilton's unspoken rules, namely that as one progresses through four years at Hamilton, the quality of one's housing improves. I openly acknowledge that this is not always the case, but based on my experience at Hamilton so far, this unspoken rule seems to hold true.

Despite the potential claim by defenders of the proposed housing changes that upperclassmen superiority in quality of housing is unfair, I would argue the exact opposite. If someone attends Hamilton for more than two years and does not transfer they should be rewarded with superior housing due to loyalty to the College and seniority. That the proposed housing changes will violate this unspoken rule for future upperclassmen is a true shame.

Lastly I would like to state that I think the proposed future policy of bringing all students to campus from downtown is an overreach. Even though I would not choose to live downtown, having this decision forcibly taken out of students' hands seems to be a violation of students' right to choose.

—Jason Ross '14

To honor the sisters of Alpha Theta Chi:

On behalf of the staff, Board of Trustees and especially the patrons of the Kirkland Town Library, I am writing to acknowledge the members of the Alpha Theta Chi sorority for the variety of ways they supported us this academic year. Whether assisting with a craft project, distributing candy to trick-or-treaters, offering a yoga class, collecting jewelry for the Friends of the Kirkland Town Library Holiday Sale, cleaning audiobooks, rearranging bookshelves, or providing extra hands at our annual Literary Tea Party, their help was welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you for reaching out to us and thank you for donating your time and energy to assist the Kirkland Town Library and the community we serve.

—Anne Debraggio
Director, Kirkland Town Library

On Student Assembly:

What does Student Assembly do? Throughout the year I have watched the Administration pass new rules on freshman living, downtown housing, and res life all while claiming student input from Student Assembly. For the vast majority of the student body, these changes are viewed as negative for the sense of community that we experience currently at Hamilton. If most students oppose these changes, then why are they occurring? Why has Student Assembly been our voice but not stopped them? Do they have actual power to affect change or are they just a Vichy government? As a senior who is hopefully graduating, I strongly believe that the students need a larger role that is taken seriously by the Administration, perhaps through the institution of a student trustee board (look at Cornell for an example).

Lyman Munschauer '13

Thumbs Up

HamTrek: Exciting new endurance test added to the lineup this year—waiting in line for Mango Brie at 12:12 p.m.

Hamilton HUM, HOC Edition: Instead of telling a story in which you describe your coming of age as a rocky mountain, you can talk about that time you actually hiked the Rocky Mountains.

Senior thesis presentations: Even more wine and brie than KJ on your average Wednesday.

Thumbs Down

New Housing Changes: You think you're upset about losing the Fac Apps? Why do you think the Root day care kids cry so much?

Last weekend of the year: Seniors, this is the last time you can make out with someone who doesn't have a job and is "figuring things out" and not have it be sad for you.

Must be sober to meet Macklemore on C&C Day: No one will be meeting Macklemore on C&C Day.

Who Cares?

Return your library books: What is "books"?

Jazzy Lunch in McEwen: When one thinks of the flavors of the South at Hamilton, they're less likely to think of hush puppies and gumbo, more so stale beer and crotch sweat in a crowded quad.

Pledging is over: Unfortunately, finals will also have you locked up in a dark room with no food, no sleep, and a bunch of older people yelling about the importance of history.

by Wynn Van Dusen '15, Claire Carusillo '13, Carrie Solomon '16 and Jessye McGarry '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Another look at divestment

by Max Schnidman '14
Opinion Contributor

The debate over divestment has swarmed across college campuses over the past year, and it has finally hit the Hill. Members of our community are asking the College to "immediately freeze any new investment in fossil-fuel companies, and to divest within five years from direct ownership and from any commingled funds that include fossil-fuel public equities and corporate bonds." They argue that such an act will prevent harm to our environment. Their position, while morally admirable, is economically untenable.

First, a quick discussion on investments: the college doesn't leave our tuition money under a mattress. Rather, it invests this money in the markets through a combination of stocks, bonds, hedge funds and other financial instruments designed to provide greater returns than a bank's interest would provide. Of course, these investments carry risks: a company could declare bankruptcy, the Eurozone could collapse, etc. Combinations of assets, however, can reduce risk, and Hamilton's assets constitute a well-diversified portfolio: a collection of assets that most highly mitigates risk from individual assets.

What happens, then, if we choose to divest from fossil fuels? Our well-diversified portfolio suddenly loses its diversity and exposes itself to greater risks from other firms and sectors of the economy. This could reduce both the financial security of our endowment and the returns from our investments. According to the College's 2012 financial statement (available online), our investments directly into energy partnerships, royalties and firms are worth about $59 million. This comprises just under eight percent of our investments (as of March 2013), but doesn't include overall risk to the portfolio from the energy sector (a college official clarified these numbers and stated that the college does not track its portfolio risk to each sector of the economy). While some may argue that this eight percent means that divestment would be easy, the fiscal cost of exiting the contracts would be significant, and the impact that divestment would have on

see **Divestment**, page 6

Divestment debate

from ***Divestment,*** *page 5*

our future expenditures could be devastating. Our endowment funds development projects, academic programs and financial aid packages. Divestment could make it unfeasible for many of its advocates to continue attending Hamilton College.

Advocates may counter that financial aid only costs the college $26 million, less than half the returns from energy investments, and that such a small amount of money can easily be made up. This argument ignores, however, the increased risk that our portfolio would be exposed to, and the loss in returns that our endowment would face from fewer investment opportunities. Additionally, not all of the $59 million from energy goes directly into expenditures; rather, much of those returns stay in the asset, generating future returns and keeping our endowment healthy.

Advocates may then respond that the endowment should be used more liberally for expenditures. That may be true, but much of the endowment is held in reserve for future growth and financial security. Hamilton's investment strategy has a much greater time horizon than any individual investor: while the average person may plan for investment over forty years, the College has to plan for many decades, as the institution is expected to outlast any members of the current community.

Divestment proponents may also counter that our energy returns have decreased year-over-year (by about 11%), and that divestment may actually help our endowment. These returns, however, need to be compared to the rest of the energy market. The Vanguard Energy Fund, a composite fund of the energy market, saw a 21% year-over-year decline in the same time period. Our energy investments actually outperformed the energy market, a testament to our asset management team, and a sign that our energy investments are financially beneficial.

Advocates also argue that our divestment will help convince firms to cease their activities in fossil fuels. Our divestment alone, however, wouldn't be enough. If we divest for reasons outside the market fundamentals, then the energy assets will be underpriced, leading to other investors buying up the assets immediately to get the returns. It would require a massive shift in market demand that academia alone cannot cause to convince firms to reduce fossil fuel activities. Additionally, by maintaining our assets in energy companies, we could use our voting power as shareholders to enact change from within, rather than attempting to unilaterally change the markets.

Climate change is without a doubt a significant issue, and while we do need to find a solution, but divestment is not it. Divestment is a feel-good position that will only harm the College in the short term and the environment in the long term, as the market as a whole will continue to invest in fossil fuels. Rather, we should maintain our holdings in fossil fuel firms to convince them to change from within by advocating for alternative methods of responding to climate change, such as geoengineering, which argues for human intervention in the climate to mitigate the effects of climate change. This process could open up entirely new industries and cause significantly less stress on the market. Climate change solutions need to work with the markets, and not against them, in order to succeed. The choice is clear. Divestment works against the market, and geoengineering does not.

Why we are Republicans

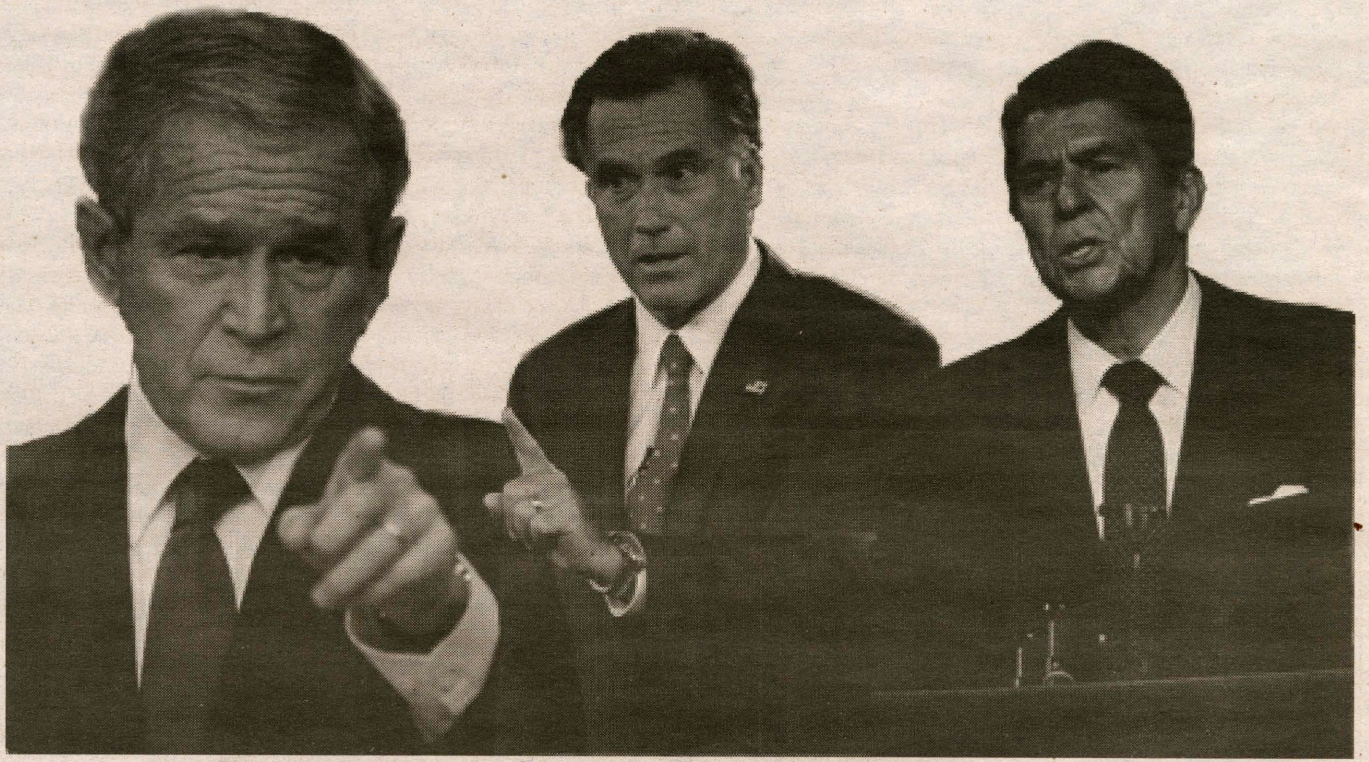

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN PRIOR '13

By Patrick Bedard '14
Opinion Contributor

While I certainly cannot speak for every member of the Republican Party, every conservative Hamilton student or even every member of the Hamilton College Republicans, I do believe that a great number of my rightward leaning peers share many of the sentiments which I am about to lay before you. I hope that even if you are not moved to accept any of our beliefs or reasoning, you can at least better understand why it is that we are proud to call ourselves Republicans.

Many Hamilton Republicans fit a similar mold—we tend to be socially moderate and fiscally conservative. Many of us are supportive of extending marriage benefits to same sex couples and passing background check legislation for firearms purchases and we too become exasperated when candidates running for national office deny the scientific validity of climate change.

Because of this, many of our more liberal friends and acquaintances are often perplexed as to how we can support a party with a platform that seems to contradict a number of the social tenets that we value. So, why do so many—alright, maybe not so many, but more than you might think young, educated, socially moderate students support the Republican Party? It's simple—social issues just are not the biggest problem.

Our country currently faces the biggest threat to its existence since its inception over 230 years ago. It is a danger far greater than past wars, economic depressions or social upheavals, a danger that has no equal in imminence or in scope. It is the threat of crushing national debt brought on by the overexpansion of government. I have neither the time nor the space to do justice to the perils posed by a $16.8 trillion national debt ($150,000 per tax payer), but past examples—from the economic collapse of Argentina to the fall of Rome—provide ample illustration for those in need of convincing. Denying the threat of a crushing national debt is as large a folly as denying the existence of global climate change.

At this point, you may be thinking that neither Republicans nor Democrats have a particularly illustrious history when it comes to tackling the issue of spending. You might be preparing to point out that Congress has failed to produce serious spending cuts regardless of which party has been in power, and that George Bush left our nation's finances in a sorry state when he left office. This may be true, but in the systematic deadlock that often grips our government's 535 members of Congress, rhetoric is an important tool for understanding the disparate views that our two political parties hold for this country's future. And the rhetoric could not be more different.

President Obama and the Democratic Party leadership are open in their belief that the solution to our current economic woes is more regulation, more spending and—most importantly—more government. I know that I speak for nearly every member of the Republican Party when I emphatically and wholeheartedly refute that notion.

To quote Ronald Reagan, the man who defined better than any other our party's core principles in this modern age, I say that, "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.

From time to time we've been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. Well, if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?" This belief in less government and more liberty is still as true and vibrant in the hearts and minds of Republicans as it was when President Regan so beautifully articulated it back in 1981.

In the words of our recent presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, "We believe in maintaining for individuals the right to pursue their dreams, and not to have the government substitute itself for the rights of free individuals. And what we're seeing right now is, in my view, a trickle-down government approach which has government thinking it can do a better job than free people pursuing their dreams." It is this belief in the ability of men over the ability of government that separates the Republicanism we believe in from the liberal alternative.

Right now, the GOP is far from perfect. It is divided among many lines, with neocons, the old guard and libertarians all vying to set the agenda of our party's future. The one thing we can all agree on, though, is that the current financial crisis that faces our nation is more than just the just the result of a recession. It is the result of a government run amok. It is the result of conscious and deliberate decisions made by the President and the Democratic Party leadership to spend and not to cut.

The decision to nearly double the nation's publicly held debt since 2012, despite $2 trillion in tax hikes. The decision to engage in the greatest spending deficit of any presidential administration since the Second World War. The decision to devote more than 50 percent of the U.S. federal budget to social spending programs. The decision to oppose serious reform to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, programs which will account for all federal revenue by 2045 if left unchecked. The decision to vilify the top 10 percent of U.S. income earners for not "paying their fair share," even when their current share happens to be over 70 percent of all federal income taxes. Most of all, it is the decision to reshape and remold our long held American ideals of liberty and equality of opportunity into ideals of dependency and equality of outcome.

While we hope and pray that the Republican Party and the country will soon reach an amicable solution to issues like marriage equality and universal background checks, it is not these issues that keep us up at night. What frightens us is the prospect of a government so crushed by debt and wrecked by dependency that it can no longer afford to secure our borders, protect our citizens, educate our children, provide for our seniors, or convey spousal benefits to couples, whether gay or straight.

Will I continue to advocate for equality in marriage, universal background checks, and a solution to climate change? Of course. But I will do so as a proud member of the Republican Party, and with the firm knowledge that my party's deficiency on these issues pales in comparison to the opposition's failure, both in rhetoric and in action, to provide for a sustainable system of governance that respects the ideals of life, liberty and property that make our country and our Constitution so exceptional.

FYE decision made without our input

by Kevin Welsh '15
Opinion Contributor

PHOTO BY KEVIN PRIOR '13

The proposed changes to Carnegie Residence Hall are among the most highly disputed among students.

This week's meeting of Student Assembly was surprisingly well attended, but for those new attendees, also surprisingly unproductive. Students arrived expecting to give their input on the First Year Experience, but were told they were too late. The ripple around the room at this announcement was one of disbelief, confusion and anger—and I felt all of it.

Disregarding the Committee's controversial proposal, they failed on a more basic level: they didn't involve students.

Before any recommendations were created, I do not know what input the student body had—besides the two student members of the Committee. I do not actually have a problem with this, since I do not believe people would have responded to an abstract question of change. What they will respond to, however, are concrete changes, and those responses that were not gathered.

The night Associate Dean of Students Meredith Harper Bonham and Assistant Dean of Students Travis Hill first came to Student Assembly, they met a chorus of concerns about their recommendations (mostly involving the curricular changes). But the time given for students to read and react to the report for the meeting was limited to just three days. Also derailing this initial feedback was the infamous "Mad Dog, Vodka and the Jitney" incident. At no fault to the committee, their time to get opinions that night was co-opted by Dean Thompson's presence to discuss that pertinent issue.

Even if the meeting had not been sidetracked, though, there was not enough out reach afterwards—or rather not enough concern for the response to their outreach. After the meeting the Committee held brown bag lunches for students to express their concerns after they published their recommendations. The problem is that the lunches were held four months after the recommendation was published, enough time for people to forget. By then few students remembered what the report was, and when responses were so limited, the Committee should have figured out a way to get a larger response.

With an issue this large, a lack of response shouldn't have been ignored; a threshold of responses should have been met before the recommendations proceeded. Silence is not compliance, and when they were met with silence, I wish the Committee had come up with new ways to get responses. In an ironic twist, Committee member and Student Assembly President Anthony Jackson argued on Facebook earlier this month that students had their time to respond and missed it, but has also organized a town hall for students to express their concerns. Anthony seems to recognize the feelings of the student body —but too late. His efforts would have been better suited a few months ago.

Yet, this failure does not just fall on the Committee. As much as we would all enjoy to blame "the man," this failure falls on others—Student Assembly and the student body. When offered a chance to comment on the Committee's proposal last week, no student rep spoke up. I know student representatives who complained about these recommendations, yet they said nothing. People who were at the first meeting, and who heard the first concerns, also said nothing. What happened was a collective failure by all Hamilton students, but the student body's elected officials should be held as responsible as the student body and the Committee. This apathy by Student Assembly is reprehensible and demonstrates a lack of leadership within our leadership.

Ignoring current feelings, I know Hamilton's Administration is not evil. I have worked closely with the Dean of Students Office and Residential Life before, and I know they are all good, thoughtful people. I believe they have the school's best intentions in mind. That does not, however, excuse this critical failure on their behalf. They can do better at communicating.

As can the student body who moaned about the recommendations for months without doing anything. As a government major, I know voter apathy is just part of the governing game, but on issues like this I can't let that excuse our behavior. The students also failed. They did not connect to their reps or the Administration and share the blame for lack of input—it is their voices that went unheard.

Yet, I believe our student reps are the solution to this disconnect. While some remarkable and commendable reps did a fantastic job communicating student feelings, the majority did not. They registered reactions but did nothing to act on them. They didn't mention any concerns last week when prompted, and did little to incite attendance or activity at this week's meeting.

Only after the fact was a move made to garner student voices with President Jackson's town hall. The idea was great, but came too late. Where was this thinking earlier? Why didn't our elected peers take their jobs seriously, knowing that everyone's experience was on the line? Voter apathy is one thing, but assembly apathy is another more disheartening one. For pete's sake, the word "representative" is in their title. What happened?

I hope this incident inspires better communication by the Administration, better involvement by the student body and better work by Student Assembly. I love Hamilton deeply and know we will all weather this storm and get over it someday, but I hope it serves as a starting point for a more engaged community from top to bottom.

Think you're funny?
Love to draw?
You could become *The Spectator*'s
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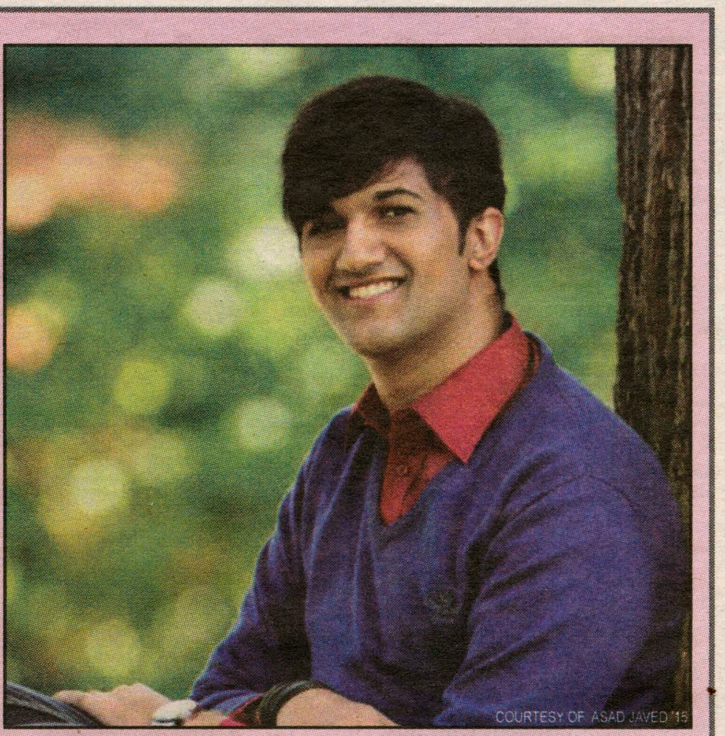
Email spec@hamilton.edu for
more information

From Where I Sit:

Hamilton's international perspectives

By Asad Javed '15
Features Contributor



COURTESY OF ASAD JAVED '15

Being an international student comes with a progressive set of challenges. For starters, it is a culture shock when you get here. It's the language ("y'all" can't be a real word), the food, (mac and cheese, if you think about, is carbs topped with fat) and everything in between.

After being seasoned by two years at Hamilton, the issues that I've had to encounter the most didn't come with this being a different world, but in bridging the two worlds. That bridge needed to form when I came out (things aren't quite so accepting back home as they are here). It needed to form with the weather (you can imagine my sentiments when I got back from Spring Break in the perfectly warm Pakistani March, into the heaps of never-fading snow). But most of all, for me, it needed to form once I designed my major. Coming from a world with limited opportunities, where people are programmed to stick to the traditional options, describing to everyone that I was a film major came with a quite a diversified set of responses.

There is the "Oh my God, that sounds so rad" school of thought. This would be the acquaintances back home that didn't really know of a lot of people doing something so artistic, and found my cinematic pursuits to be excessively cool.

Pros: It's pretty awesome to be thought of as a maverick and a big shot.

Cons: It blows when you're actually not.

Then there is the "That's a hobby, love, not a career…" persuasion. This would be, firstly, my parents, both doctors, thus both people of science, who don't quite understand how one can make a living doing anything that doesn't come with a stable paycheck, and a reasonable starting salary.

Pros: People think you're crazy.

Cons: Not in a good way.

Then there are the "You go, girl" believers. Leading that rank would be my brother, who'll give me thump on the back for anything (and I mean anything), and all my friends, who supportively will agree with the first school of thought, but will probably roll their eyes as they share the beliefs of the second.

Pros: You've got a good support system.

Cons: Your support system expects you to be big.

So as I begin to wrap up my second year of college, writing scripts, planning shots, preparing for internships and networking with alums, it's just funny that most people think the climb of an international student ends when he can speak fluently, socialize with the wider American world, and manage to not gag at the idea of mashed potatoes, but all that is just the first chapter. To Clinton, NY, I'm a film major, but on the other side of the world, I'm a dreamer, a maverick and maybe clinically insane, and from where I sit, it is a fun ride to see how we can all be so similar, yet so different.

***"From Where I Sit"** is a column dedicated to the international voices of Hamilton's campus. If you are an international student and are interested in contributing a column, contact Barbara Britt-Hysell (bbritthy@hamilton.edu).*

Utica is Brewtiful gives Hamilton its own meme t-shirt

By Alex Orlov '13
Features Writer

Paying homage to nearby Utica, three Hamilton graduates have created punny "Utica is Brewtiful" t-shirts, available for sale exclusively online. Though all three were decidedly less interested in clothes when they were members of the original Hamilton Varsity Streaking Team, Adam Bedient '04, Carrie Turvey Moores '05 and Craig Moores '05 are now the proud cofounders of Utica is Brewtiful (UIB).

"The 'Ithaca is Gorges' staple has haunted me since adolescence," said Turvey Moores, a Clinton native who has had the UIB idea for a few years but only recently decided to design the shirt.

"If you bring up the concept of Utica to anyone who has lived in upstate New York for more than a year, it transcends geography, and becomes almost a meme unto itself; the colloquial accent, chicken riggies, the boilermaker, hot sauce and blue cheese on pizza, the Forever Leather guy, halfmoons, Utica Club and Matt's Brewery … the list goes on," she says, noting that the lake effect snow and frequent cloud cover makes for "hardy" but "extraordinarily good-natured" people who love drinking beer.

In keeping with the Utica theme, even the names of the UIB tee colors make reference to Utica's unique offerings; colors include "chicken riggie red," "cloud cover grey" and "halfmoon cookie white."

Turvey Moores and Bedient, who were raised in Clinton and have known each other since the first grade, have instilled in Moores, who grew up in Albany, a love of Utica and Utica Club.

While Turvey Moores and Moores, who are now married, met during the first day of orientation for studio art majors, Bedient and Moores "fell in love while shotgunning Utica Clubs outside of a Bundy party," reports Moores. And Hamilton love abounds within the company; the background picture for the UIB website features a grinning Sean Tice '06, founder of a thriving company called Brooklyn Slate. (http://www.brooklynslate.com)

When asked about the college student conundrum of purchasing beer for quantity or for quality Bedient responded that an ideal night "transitions seamlessly from a six-pack of Saranac Trail Mix into one to five cases of Utica Club." A proponent of Matt's Brewery, Moores said that a forty of Old English is "ideal for tubing the Oriskany Creek on a hot day." Turvey Moores discloses that her favorite local beer is the "Utica Corona," a Utica Club with a slice of lime.

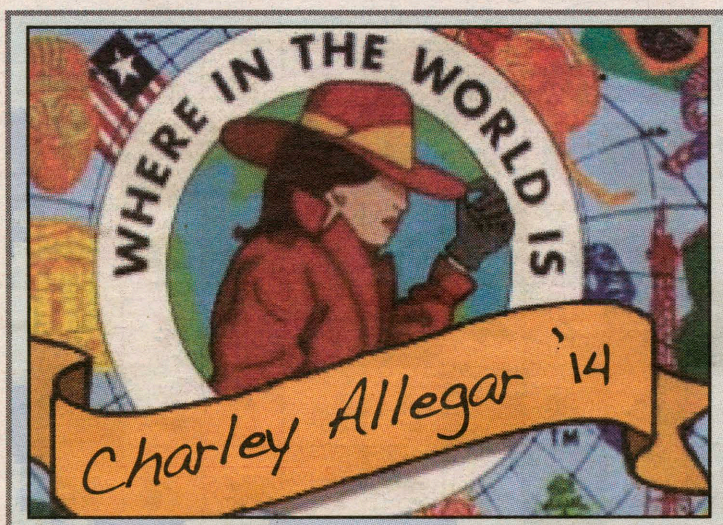
Moores is now a general surgery resident at Yale New Haven Hospital, Turvey Moores does marketing and social media for a Connecticut private school and Bedient makes movies; however, all have visions of success for UIB and schemes for expansion. Turvey Moores imagines having a UIB "Union Suit," one-piece long underwear that originated in Utica. Bedient dreams of tie-dye tanks and "beer helmets for our retro-novelty partiers." Moores said, "If only a few people ever wear our shirts with pride, the company will be a success."

To order your own UIB shirt, visit http://www.uticaisbrewtiful.com. The Hamilton community is encouraged to like "Utica is Brewtiful" on Facebook and post "Hamilton <3's Utica" to automatically enter to win a free tee which will be raffled off on May 31.

UTICA IS BREWTIFUL
UTICA IS BREWTIFUL
UTICA IS BREWTIFUL

PHOTO COURTESY OF UTICA IS BREWTIFUL

Utica is Brewtiful tees is available in Chicken Riggie Red, Halfmoon Cookie White and Utica Cloud Cover Grey



by Charley Allegar '14
Features Contributor

Six of us rumbled along in a back-roads taxi, my four American study abroad classmates and our Maasai host crammed into the backseat, forming a tangled mess of overlapping limbs. We were about 30 miles outside of Nairobi, riding down a long, bumpy, dirt straightaway in the Rift Valley. En route to the rural settlement of Olosho-Oibor, Yazi, Steph, Ashley, Molly and I were going to stay a night in a Maasai homestead. Pictures will only do the route's scenery half-justice, but about four or five miles to our left were rugged green-yellow mountains called Ngong Hills, and otherwise, the terrain was flat, arid, and unlike anywhere else I've ever been. Green, flat-topped trees were spread out about every 40 feet. Their branches looked like long, wispy clouds, as though someone had ironed them from above. One type of tree naturally coated itself with a thick layer of bright yellow dust (found that out later by climbing it and then discovering I looked like a mac-and-cheese monster). Bushes with long, spiky thorns (one poked my foot through my boot!), lots of gnarly rocks and vacant dirt filled in the space between trees.

We pulled off the road and stepped out of the taxi into a 100 x 200 ft wooden enclosure with five small wood-and-tin dwellings, all shared by one extended family. Samson, the Maasai dude who had directed the taxi driver, told us his younger sister Monica would take care of us until evening and then rode off again. As 17-year-old Monica emerged from one house with her infant niece Santa Fe (no joke), we looked around the enclosure seeing two huge cows, a few goats, two grown dogs, and a puppy chilling in it. After treating us to hot chocolate with fresh cow's milk, Monica offered to take us to find their herd of cows.

We meandered around the family's vast landholdings in the valley for about an hour. We didn't find the cows, but I got the impression Monica had stopped looking early on. "Do you want to see more of the Rift Valley?" she asked. Yeah we did. So she switched direction and took us some distance across the road, where the valley floor melted away and majestic rolling hills opened up in front of us. More than that, even though I've never been to Africa, the scene seemed familiar somehow.

There's a theory about human evolution, Humans evolved in East Africa. The dry plains I was walking on are the same ones that greeted the first humans and, perhaps not coincidentally, rural Africa seems to supercharge my love of nature, adventure and running, more than the equally beautiful landscapes of Central America or the US. When I saw the rolling continuation of Ngong Hills, I realllly wanted to start tearing across it.

When we returned to home, Monica told us her younger sisters would then accompany us to 'the dam.' with mini tour guides Sophia, Katy and Michelle leading the way, we took another hike through Maasailand ending in a descent to a gigantic man-made lake where about a hundred cows and goats were grazing and drinking. Ngong Hills towering over us on the other side of the lake, we spent two or three hours sitting by the lakeside, playing with the kids, taking pictures and enjoying the scenery.

At least, my friends did. There were too many things to climb for me to stay put. Along the waterfront, I hoisted myself up a big, sprawling tree, from whose branches I had a conversation in Swahili with a neighbor of our hosts who was at a loss as to why a crazy mzungu was hanging 15 feet above his flock. Then I went back to check in with the group before checking out one of two giant piles of boulders that lay along the descent to the lake.

Carrying our tour guides on piggy back, we went back to the homestead after about an hour and offered to assist our hosts with dinner preparations, to no avail. We met the patriarch and matriarch of the family, who had come home in our absence both garbed in bright red traditional Maasai blankets.

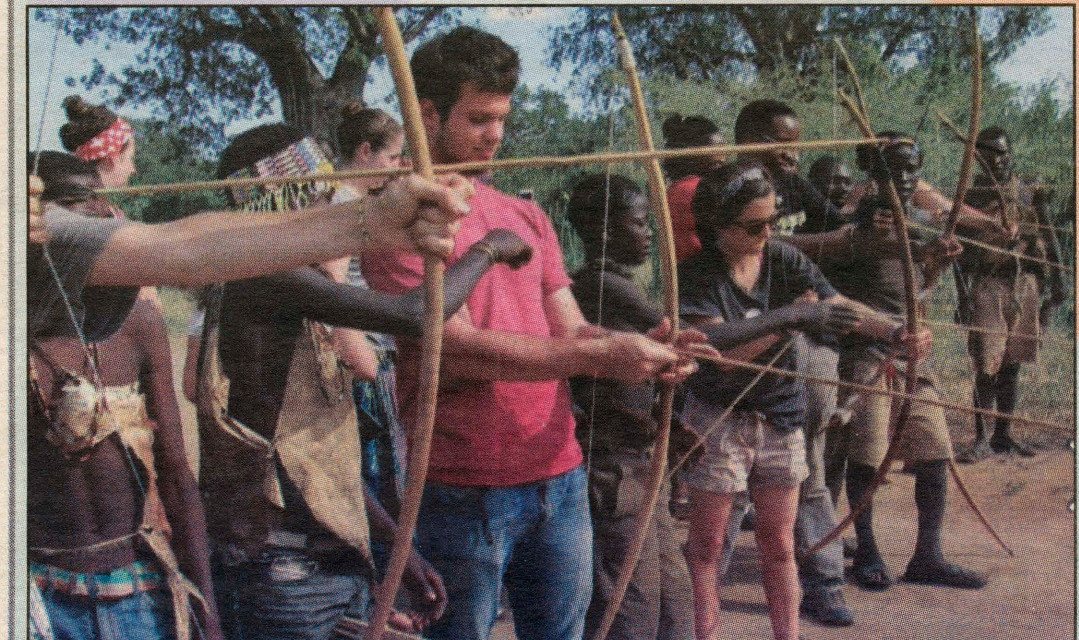
Simon (Monica and Samson's middle-aged brother whom we'd contacted for the stay) and Sam (another brother) had a friendly dinner with us in our shack, after which Yazi, Ashley, Molly, Steph and I took turns milking a cow like champs. Then we went to sleep early. The entire trip was a great bonding experience for us Americans, but joking around before bed was especially fun. It was hard for most of us to sleep though. The wind was extremely loud the entire night. "I seriously thought the shack was going to come down," Molly said the next morning.

After breakfast tea at about 7:30 am, Simon asked me if I wanted to help de-worm the sheep. I thought this might be my last opportunity to ever do that, so I hopped in the sheep's pen as Sam and Dickson started grabbing sheep by a back leg and pulling them towards Simon, who funneled a nasty white paste into their mouths before letting them out of the gate.

Totally unexpectedly, seeing Simon and Sam interact with their animals gave me insight into some biblical passages (I'm an active Lutheran), which, equally unexpectedly, gave me insight into the gargantuan task of international development. On the one hand, the symbol of the shepherd as a caretaker became more meaningful. On the other, in the first-century Middle East, as today with the Maasai, most people made a living by raising livestock. Cattle was currency, and to please God, people would ritually sacrifice their animals. So when in the literature Jesus urges people not to make such sacrifices, I think he meant that rituals and religious rules are not important. I think even more fundamentally what he was saying is that it's not about money. Giving involves so much more than resources and improved economic efficiency. Building unconditionally loving relationships is much more key.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLEY ALLEGAR '14

Charley Allegar '14 is all smiles in his elephant poncho at the start of his semester abroad in Kenya.



Allegar works on his archery skills with classmates and new acquaintances.

Maybe that's what I've been missing in my studies of development all along. With the proliferation of NGOs, international development alliances, World Bank plans and IMF loans, each with their stated mission, their goals to accomplish a certain amount of "growth" or "good" the world may well have turned "development" into a commodity. It's a utility-based game focused on providing a given amount of "basic need," "capability" or "help." It makes "good" an economic good. Maybe the point of engaging with societies poorer than our own isn't to give "help" at all, but to give ourselves in service.

Here's what I mean. In development debates, the teach-a-man-to-fish proverb often makes an appearance. Give a man a fish, and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he'll eat for a lifetime. I don't like either of those options by themselves, and I credit my friend and old boss Jenn Crist with a brilliant twist to the analogy. How about we make international friends, go down to the beach, teach each other our different styles of casting, fish all day, catch some bass, then head back to the village to grill fish sticks and enjoy a cold beer? We'd both be better off. Now we've got both fish and a good time.

Friendship, true friendship, is what's been missing from the first-third World dynamic ever since Europe started colonizing. In Kenya during the WWI era the British colonial government quarantined the Maasai onto reservations that overcrowded their cattle resources and taxed them more than they could earn. During the Cold War, the US only treated Kenyans respectfully when they played uncompromisingly capitalist. Today, inside their heads, a large part of the development community still operates ideologically "above" the people they are trying to "help," and while that's more well-intentioned than in the past, it's still dangerous. Maybe it's time to start not only giving folks money and technical know-how but also engaging in meaningful relationships with them (provided they want us to). Of course, given that we Westerners on average do have more resources than our Southern counterparts, and given that friends take care of each other, economic growth, adequate health care, infrastructure and the fulfilling of basic needs have to follow from these relationships, if they are done right. But I'm becoming more and more convinced that the relationships have to come first.

Before we left Olosho-Oibor, Samson, our first guide, took us to a village center where the Maasai gather to talk through and collectively make decisions, taking everyone's needs into account .My hope is that the international community can follow their lead. As we piled into the taxi home, our hosts gave us a warm farewell with an invitation to return anytime. I felt satisfied as we left; they'd been so great to us.

At the end of the semester, I have a month-long research project with a 40-page paper to write. I don't know how I'm going to test the value of friendship in development, but you can be sure that I will.

Spectator crossword solution

by Jack McManus '13
Arts & Entertainment Editor

1 f	2 a	■	3 a	4 l	5 p	6 i	n	7 e	■	■	8 v	e	e	9 p
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Jon Fredric West joins Choir, Masterworks Chorale

by Lucas Phillips '16
Arts and Entertainment Editor

On Tuesday, G. Roberts Kolb conducted the Hamilton College Choir, the Hamilton College and Community Masterworks Chorale, Symphoria and soloists Cynthia Hanna, Jon Fredric West and Mario Martìnez in a dramatic and dazzling performance Camille Saint-Saëns' opera "Samson et Delila."

The work is an interpretation of the Samson story from the Biblical Book of Judges. First performed in the late 1870s, the opera became an international favorite in the 1890s and remains widely performed today.

The performance in Wellin Hall showed why the opera has remained popular. The triumph and despair, love and betrayal and the power of God are deeply reflected in the music.

In the opening scene, The Hamilton College Choir and Masterworks Chorale beautifully evoked the long tradition of religious choral music, which set the spiritual tone of the opera.

Jon Fredric West, lecturer in music and world-renowned Wagnerian opera singer, performed the role of Samson. His huge voice thrilled the large crowd and soared through the orchestra and chorus alike. The power of his voice was the perfect match for the character of Samson who, like Sigfried, is known for his incredible strength as well as amorousness. His performance ranged from almost shaking the hall to the gentle beauty his last declaration of love to Delila, "Je t'aime." He performed the opera from memory, which gave him the freedom to act.

Though Cynthia Hanna, who played Dalila, could not match the volume of West's performance, she sang with warmth and body and revealed a strong upper register.

Robby Wittner '13, Brian Collett, associate professor of physics, Mike McCormick, associate professor of biology, Gabe Mollica '14 and Jacob Taylor '13 were also featured.

The concert was exceptional. All the groups that participated did an excellent job and Kolb made the ensemble sound cohesive despite its size. West, however—though it was no surprise—was a stand-out. His huge and dramatic performance left the audience on the edge of their seats and gave a powerful portrayal of Samson.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT POTERBA '12

A crowded stage: Symphoia, the HC Choir and Chorale.

Spotlight on Chamber Groups

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

The Saxophone Ensemble performed with the Chamber Groups on Saturday.

Come assist NYC-based artist Dannielle Tegeder at the Wellin

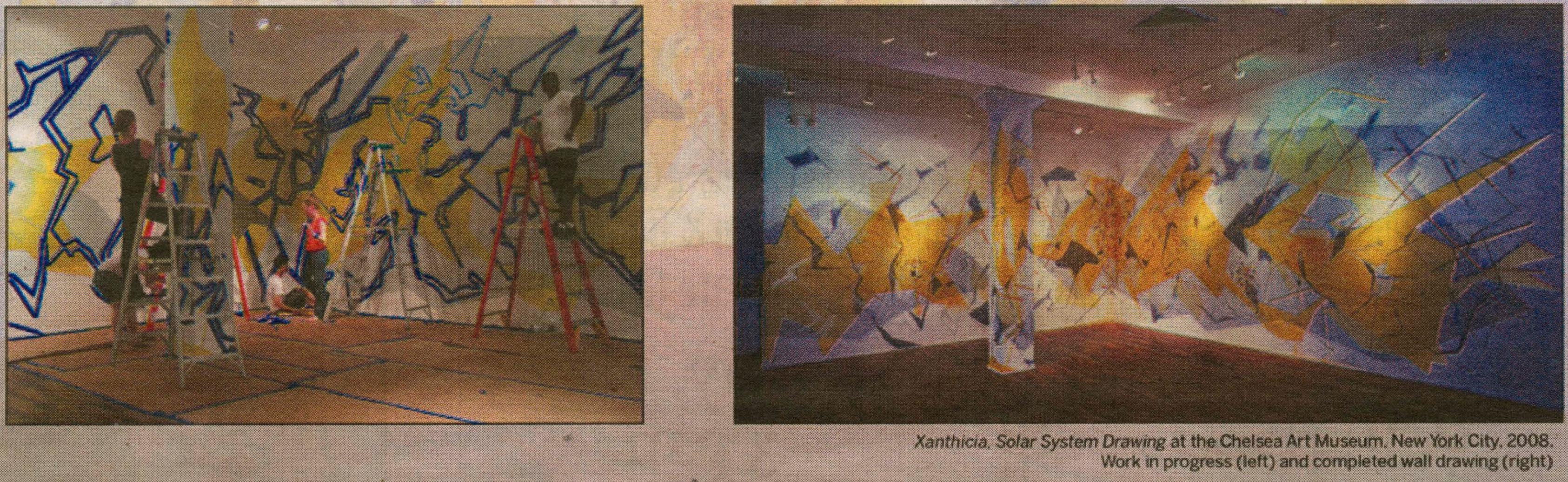
The Wellin Museum of Art is recruiting students to assist NYC-based artist Dannielle Tegeder with creating a 50-foot wall drawing for her first solo museum exhibition "Dannielle Tegeder: Painting in the Extended Field," opening May 11, 2013.

Exhibition Gallery North-facing window

This site-specific work will incorporate painting and drawing and focus on the space surrounding the Wellin's north-facing window.

Minimum Requirements to Participate
- Completed at least one drawing course at Hamilton
- Ability to dedicate a minimum of 2 hours per shift
- Art concentrators preferred, but not required

April 24 - May 9
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Xanthicia, Solar System Drawing at the Chelsea Art Museum, New York City, 2008.
Work in progress (left) and completed wall drawing (right)

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Hamilton College

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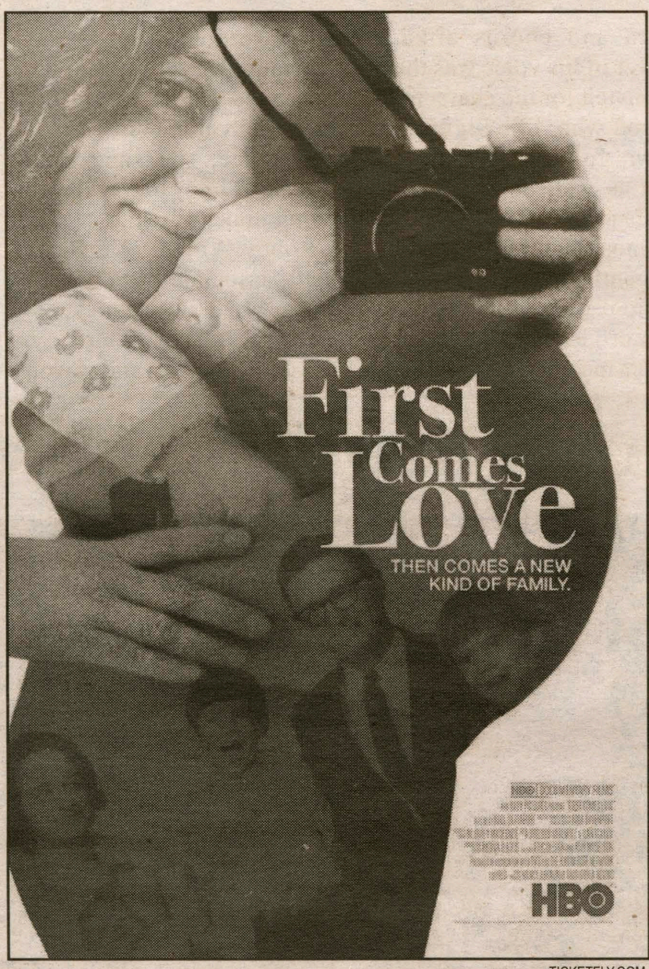
F.I.L.M. to feature Nina Davenport

by Taylor Coe '13
Editor Emeritus



TICKETFLY.COM

A filmmaker of the personal documentary school, Nina Davenport charts her pregnancy's progress in *First Comes Love*.

In the celebrated style of Ross McElwee, one of the looming figures in the world of personal documentary (and one of her teachers), Davenport takes the viewer through her experience of having a child as a single woman at the age of 41.

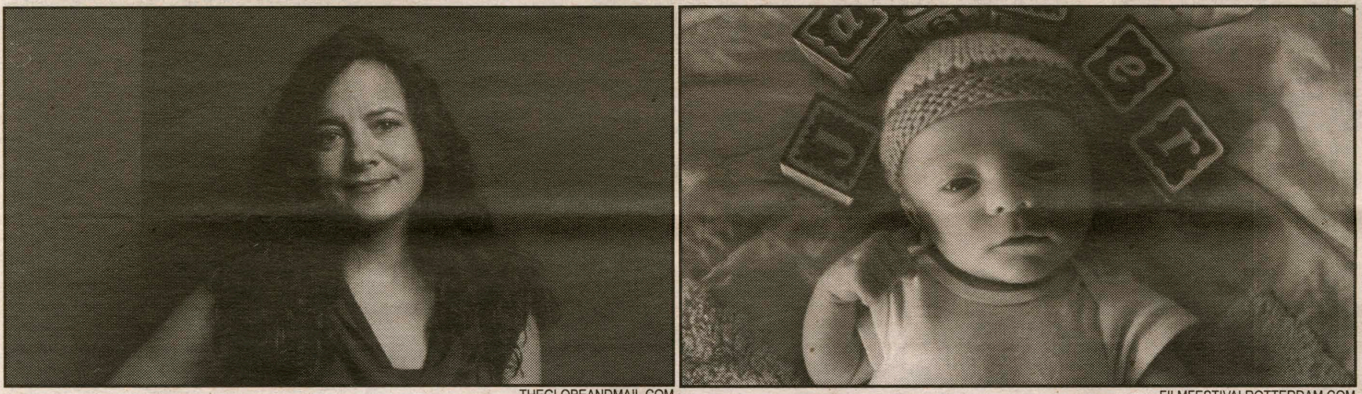
"This is a film that will appeal to more than just women," she said in an interview at the Sarasota Film Festival. "It begins as a woman's journey to have a baby on her own, but it becomes about more universal things such as family, parenthood, friendships, community, and mortality."

Like other films of personal documentary, Davenport's work has taken to task the idea of mediating life with a movie camera. Another one of her recent films, *Operation Filmmaker* (2007), followed the enigmatic tale of a young wannabe filmmaker from Iraq in the aftermath of the U.S. toppling of Saddam from power. Although the film begins as an exploration of the situation of Muthana, the young Iraqi man, it inexorably devolves into a treatment of how Davenport relates to Muthana through the camera.

Several critics have lauded Davenport's work, especially *First Comes Love* for its honesty and humor.

"The film is an intimate and often heartbreaking portrait told as only Davenport can," said John Fink, of The Film Stage. "Her work is often of a diary or point-of-view sensibility—honest, straightforward and often very funny."

This showing marks the final event in this spring's F.I.L.M. series, which has brought a diverse group of (mostly) documentary filmmakers to campus over the semester. The series, hosted by Visiting Professor of Art History Scott MacDonald, will continue next fall.


THEGLOBEANDMAIL.COM FILMFESTIVALROTTERDAM.COM

Independent filmmaker Nina Davenport is visiting campus to screen a documentary about her pregnancy.

When Saxophones Collide
A Multimedia Mashup
featuring
Hamilton Sax Ensemble
Finesse Step Team
Tropical Sol
Swing Dance Club
plus original video and guest vocalist
Ann Francis
Sunday, May 5
7:30 p.m.
Fillius Events Barn
Free, with food!

88.7 WHCL Presents...
CAMPUS BANDS SHOWCASE
featuring
Bolivian Dark
Luke Genert & Matt Sweeney
The Nice Guys
Cliff and Nick's Unhinged Carnival Spectacular
Emma Wilkinson & Danny Ingraham
The Late Greats
Sunday, May 5
3 p.m.
Babbitt Pavilion

WHCL CORNER

Show Profile:
The Tangent
Wednesday, 1 p.m.
with
Matthew Hennigar '14 and Connor Stevenson '15

Sounds Like:

Well, frankly, two guys who really want attention. Like sad dogs. Listeners will figure that out... pretty quickly.

Expect to hear:

Plenty of awkward, forced dialogues between the two of us. Otherwise, you'll hear campy 90's pop, music less relevant than *The Little Mermaid* soundtrack and some "new" "stuff" that we've "heard" on the "flip-side."

What song do you love (or love to hate) in the Diner Jukebox?

When it comes to Diner B, you can't beat Mr. Piano Man.

This song goes out to...

Hannah Fine. We'll always have Paris.

Albums or songs you can expect to hear:

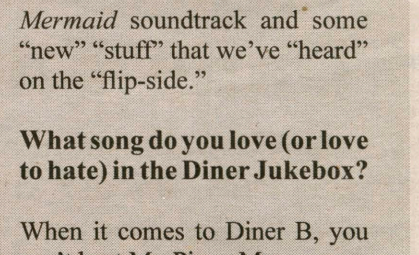
"Helplessness Blues" - Fleet Foxes

"What's Up" - 4 Non Blondes

"Music to Walk Home By"
-Tame Impala

"Next to You" - Poolside

"Walkin' on the Sun" -
Smash Mouth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Jeffrey Paradise (left) and Filip Nikolic of Poolside.

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Baseball rounds out NESCAC play with win over Ephs

by Patrick English '15
Sports Writer

Despite two losses to finish NESCAC play, the baseball team has made great strides this season. Their record of 14-21 (4-8 NESCAC) was an improvement from last season's record of 6-26 (2-10 NESCAC).

Last week began with a close game against SUNY Canton. The teams went back and forth on scoring throughout the game. SUNY Canton struck first in the top half of the second with an RBI single by Braden Giffen '16. They followed with two runs on two hits and an error in the third, but Ben Goffin '15 responded with a two-run single in the bottom half. SUNY Canton brought in another run on an error in the fourth, but Hamilton tied it up at 4-4 with an RBI single and a run scored by Joe Jensen '15 on an RBI single by Sam Fuentes '13. SUNY Canton soon broke the tie in the fifth with a home run by Jordan Hunneyman '14 and an RBI single by Eddy Morel '13. Hamilton got one run back in the bottom half with a sacrifice fly by Jensen after singles by Jared Friedberg '16, Brian Ferrell '16 and Tyler Reinhold '15. After two scoreless innings, SUNY Canton opened up their lead to 8-5 with two runs in the eighth and one in the ninth. Hamilton brought the late rally in the last of the ninth with an RBI double by Fuentes and an RBI single by first-year Zack Becker. However, it was too little too late as the game went 8-7 to SUNY Canton. Errors were a problem throughout the game for both teams, each committing five errors in the nine innings.

Over the weekend, the Williams baseball team came to campus for a three game series. The teams played a doubleheader on Saturday, with games at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The first game was a pitcher's duel, scoreless for the first four innings. Alex Pachella '15 outpitched Thomas Murphy '13 in the end, as Murphy gave up two runs in a 3-hit fifth. Lukas Bridenbeck '13 and Steve LaRochelle '14 had the RBIs while Becker and Friedberg scored the runs. Pachella pitched seven shut out innings, allowing three hits, striking out six and walking two for the win.

The second game included higher scoring. Jensen reached on a fielding error and scored on Becker's groundout to shortstop for Hamilton's first run in the bottom of the first. After a scoreless second, Williams responded in the third with two runs scored on an error by second baseman and a single from Taylor Mondshein '13. Williams opened up their lead with three runs in the fifth with runs from Jimmy Ray '13, David Webster '15 and a rare steal of home by Darren Hartwell '13. This brought their lead to 5-1.

Hamilton responded with a run in the sixth on a double and a run from Colin Henneberger '14, but they really brought the offense in a five-run seventh. Nick Taylor '15, Jensen and Fuentes had singles and Taylor, Jensen, Ferrell and Fuentes scored. Becker stole home to finish the scoring in the inning. At this point, Hamilton led 7-6. They added another run in the eighth to go up 8-6, but Williams tied it up in the ninth with two runs on two hits. This sent the game to extra innings tied at 8-8. After no runs in the tenth and eleventh, Williams scored with a single from Matt Kastner '14 in the twelfth. Despite two hits in the twelfth, the Continentals were unable to muster a rally and lost the game 9-8. Errors were once again a problem in this game as Williams had seven while Hamilton had three.

In the final game of the weekend, the teams were close for the first three innings. Williams had a run on a hit and two errors in the third, and Hamilton countered with two runs on three hits in the third. Unfortunately, these would be their final runs of the game. Williams scored one run in the fourth, fifth and seventh, and broke it open with four runs in the eighth to win 8-2. Hamilton's five errors throughout the game contributed to the loss. While Williams scored eight runs, only four of them were earned.

Tommy Moriarty '14 did not want the two losses to Williams to block out a successful season. He said, "it was disappointing to end the season with two losses against Williams, but the team is so much better than it has been the past couple years. We were competitive in every conference game. We are a legitimate NESCAC-level team. We're definitely excited about the future of the program." Based on how far the team came Moriarty has good reason to look forward to seeing what the program achieves in the coming years.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

Gabe Klein '13 up at bat in baseball's game against the Ephs on Saturday.

Golf swings into 3rd and 5th place

*from **Golf**, page 16*

and Hamilton and Middlebury College were deadlocked at 607.

Going into the tournament, the Hamilton men knew that they would face a difficult challenge in both Williams and Trinity. But the Conts were happy to take on a more friendly course with better weather. Scott said, "After the last couple tournaments where scores were pretty high and the conditions were tough, it was nice to play a course that you could really go low on." Scott was also proud of the way the team performed as a whole over the course of the weekend. He said "Williams is always strong so we knew they would be a front runner... Middlebury had won the last two so we always had to watch out for them. But we held out own... and we tied Midd... We gave it a good run."

The Continental women also had notable successes at their respective tournament. Gillian Dudeck '13 recorded a top 10 finish, specifically falling at 10th out of 39 golfers after she carded rounds of 86 and 83 for a 36-hole total of 169 on a par 72 layout that measured 5,800 yards. Anne Govern '15 tied for 12th place at 172 while Katie Steates '15 placed in 28th with a final total of 208. Govern posted an 83 on Saturday and added an 89 in her second round. Liz Morris '16 recorded rounds of 98 and 96 for a total of 194, and Katie White '16 finished with a total of 239.

The Hamilton Continentals finished for a total of 743 strokes on Sunday. Division II Merrimack College ultimately grabbed the team title with a score of 649, and nationally ranked No. 24 New York University was runner-up at 679. Ithaca, which ranks No.17, finished in third place at 682.

Both the men's and women's teams have great expectations for the season starting in the upcoming school year. Though significant players will be missed from the team—specifically, Dudeck and Govern—team coaches Steve Stetson and Lauren Cupp remain confident in their current and future team members for more successes to come.

These sentiments are echoed around members of both the men's and women's team. Scott said, "Things look promising for next year. We've got a solid group of guys and have shown that we are close to really contending for the title." Looking forward to next fall, the team believes that they can contend with the rest of the NESCAC. All the team needs is "a little momentum. Next year we could find ourselves at the top of the leaderboard. 13 strokes really isn't that much to make up," added Scott. Govern also feels that the women "had a fantastic season... we really supported each other a lot." She added that on behalf of the whole team, we are really thankful for everything [Dudeck] has done; we wouldn't be here without her." After a nice long summer break, the Continentals will take to the greens again next fall.

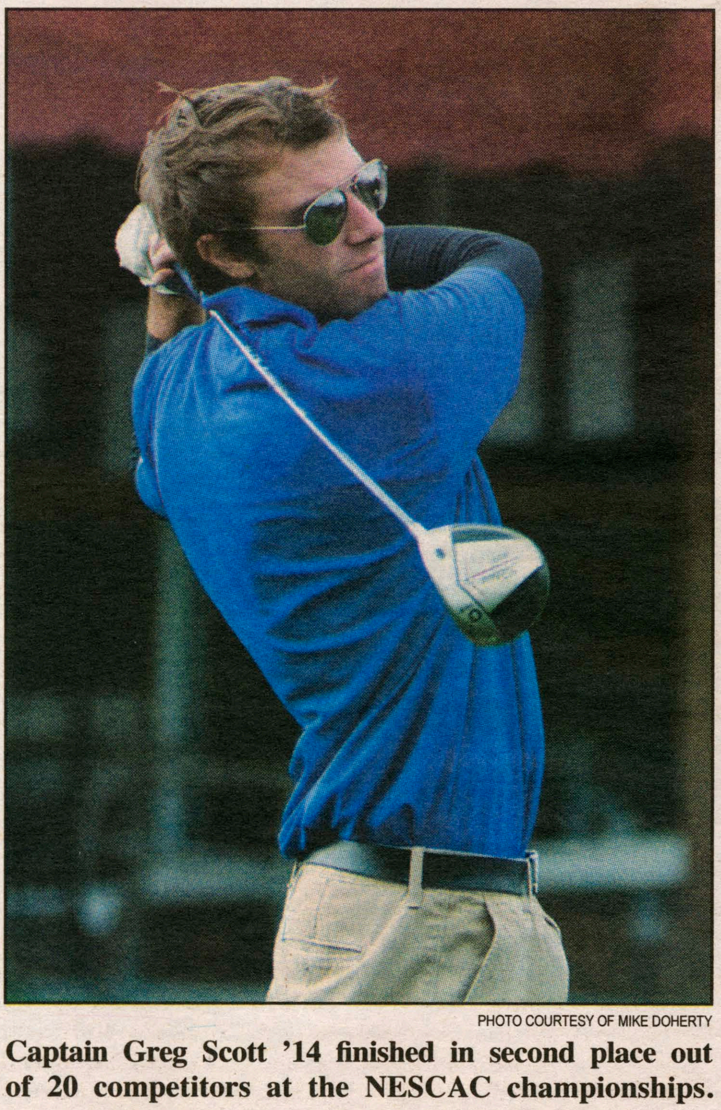


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Captain Greg Scott '14 finished in second place out of 20 competitors at the NESCAC championships.

Rugby goes formal

*from **Rugby**, page 16*

ball several meters down the field, the backie flopped onto the ball to secure the point. She stood up triumphant, smiling in her single-shouldered, mossy-green dress.

Of course the action didn't stop there. Wagner attests that she knows "at least two other people [who] had to put new dresses on during the game because they got so ripped."

Rebecca Gaines '15 added her thoughts on why the highly anticipated prom match is so beneficial to the team. "It's a lot of fun," said Gaines. "We take ourselves pretty seriously as a team and this was a great way to have fun and end the season."

For Sarah Fishman '16, it was a reminder of "why I love being a part of Hamilton College Women's Rugby."

Whatever the rhyme or reason, the annual prom dress game is here to stay. Wagner said, "We have a great relationship with them and really like to play them in this awesome tradition."

For those who missed it, fortunately rugby prom is here to stay. For those more eager for some women's rugby, do not miss the alumni game this weekend.

Track and field vaults into postseason play

by Yoshi Hill '16
Sports Writer

Hamilton's track athletes commenced the postseason with a wide-ranging collection of personal bests and top finishes at the NESCAC Championships. Held at Tufts University, it is the only meet of the season in which track & field athletes from the 11 NESCAC schools participate. And this year's NESCACs, which took place on April 27, brought some of the fiercest competition the Continentals have faced all season. Following the multifaceted approach of Coach Brett Hull, the team contended in an assortment of events.

Senior captain Jimmy Alexis has had a difficult season hampered by injury. Nevertheless, his health and skill finally united at this meet with great success. He entered the day seeded fourth in the pole vault but erased all recollection of his injury-plagued season with an impressive upset. Alexis cleared the opening heights with ease and worked his way to the 4.30-meter mark, a height that only one other competitor reached. Determined to guarantee his victory in the event, he vaulted over the bar set at 4.45 meters and landed as the best pole-vaulter in the NESCAC. He is the first NESCAC champion in the pole vault from Hamilton since James Russell in 2009, who also holds the school record. In his 10th and final year of track and field, Alexis was ecstatic about the "opportunity to end on a high note … and use this momentum to get to Nationals." He also singled out Coach Jerry Tine as a major reason for his success. "[Tine] has taught me through the years and I can never thank him enough." This historic result highlighted a productive meet for the Continentals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Junior Hannah Jaiven placed third in the pole vault event on April 27 and is in the running to qualify for the NCAA championships later this spring.

Hannah Jaiven '14 captured another one of Hamilton's successes in the pole vault with a third place finish. It has been quite the breakout season for Jaiven, who has developed into one of the top pole vaulters in the NESCAC. She admits that while she would have liked to have taken the title, "I do take pride in representing and scoring points for my team." Jimmy Alexis '13 lauded her, saying, "she is hands down the most talented pole-vaulting teammate I've had through the years." Jaiven is primed for an excellent senior season and is only a few inches away from qualifying for the NCAA meet, which is her ultimate goal for the season.

"[Jaiven] is hands down the most talented pole-vaulting teammate I've had through the years."

—Jimmy Alexis '13

Elsewhere, there were solid results in the triple jump for first-years Michael Nkereuwem and Leonard Kilekwang, who finished fifth and eighth, respectively. Junior Sampson Reider dashed to a ninth-place finish in the 400 meters. In a season of significant growth, several athletes set their personal records at the meet. Evan Ableson '16 and James Bryan '16 both set personal bests in the 1500 meters. Jake London '14 captured his personal best in the 200 with a time of 22.98 seconds. Lastly, Jack Moses '16 pushed through the arduous steeplechase event in a personal record 10:24.27.

The women's team pulled through with many strong performances. Both Rachel Cackett '13 and Hannah Kloeckner '14 raced to personal bests in the 10K race. Their performances have been steadily improving this year and they peaked at the perfect time. In the 5K race, first-year Alex Reading battered her previous personal best by a considerable 46 seconds. Coach Ellen Hull praised the 4 x 800 team of Jessye McGarry '16, Tina Choinski '15, Emily Heckman '13 and Catherine Oglevee '15 for a strong eighth place showing in a competitive field.

Alexis recalls that at the NESCAC meet, he told the team, "It's the last chance dance." Looking ahead to States next weekend, he believes the same saying still applies and that the team "just needs to get out there and really go for it." He also hopes to see the men's team continue to work on building team chemistry, which has already been "carrying over into our performance." The Continentals head to Saint Lawrence University for their next postseason meet on May 3 and 4 for the NYSCTC Championships.

Women's lax freezes Polar Bears in their tracks

by Sterling Xie '16
Sports Writer

The Hamilton women's lacrosse team is starting to gain a phenomenal reputation around the NESCAC. For the second consecutive season, the Conts became the only lower-seeded team to advance from the quarterfinals, in the process upsetting third-seeded and sixth-ranked Bowdoin, 10-9. Hamilton avenged a regular season overtime loss to the Polar Bears, also a closely contested 10-9 result. Following the win, the Conts will face Trinity, the unbeaten top-seeded team that ended their run last season, in the NESCAC Championship Semifinal this weekend.

Coach Kloidt believes the team controlled the game's rhythm in the rematch, maintaining composure against Bowdoin's havoc-wreaking defense and stifling the opposition's offensive possessions. "We played a much better game this past weekend than we did in the regular season," said Kloidt. "We controlled most of the game with good possessions that disrupted their offensive rhythm and really wore down their defense. We had too many momentum breakers with our turnovers in the first game."

Coming in, both teams were aware that Hamilton's ability to sustain possession time would play a critical factor in competing against Bowdoin's defense, which caused the most turnovers in the NESCAC. After turning over 18 balls during the regular season loss, the Conts committed just nine last Saturday.

"In order to beat Trinity, we need to … be fired up but at the same time maintain composure."

—Rachel Friedman '13

Limiting turnovers is one sign of the team's tremendous growth in its mental toughness. Emphasized since the preseason camps, execution in clutch situations has not always come easily for the team this year, with several losses snowballing out of control. But leaders such as top scorer Rachel Friedman '13 and goalie Dewi Caswell '14 have turned around the team's mentality, with their steady play serving as a constant throughout an uneven season. "It's been kind of a wild roller coaster of a season," reflected Caswell. "We've had some strokes of bad luck, but we got all of that out of the way and we're ready to come out hard and keep playing."

Caswell in particular came up with several huge saves on Saturday, including a point blank free-position save with less than two minutes to go. "I love the big pressure situations or the one-on-one situations in games; they're absolutely my favorite part of the game," said the junior goalie on her timely saves. "I just try to stay in the moment…I just try to clear my head and do it and then move on to the next play. It's not a particularly romantic athletic philosophy, but I love it. Being in goal is a huge adrenaline kick."

This week, the Conts must continue to draw on their mental maturity to pull off another upset against tournament favorite Trinity. Hamilton lost to Trinity 4-8 during the regular season just two weeks ago in blustery conditions. Unsurprisingly, Coach Kloidt believes a huge factor will be the team not beating itself, as well as sustaining poise when inevitable adversity occurs during the game.

"We have to carry over our winning attitude and mental state," said Kloidt. "Just believing in our game plan and focus on executing it. We are the ultimate underdog going into a NESCAC final four with three teams ranked in the top ten. It's funny, because it's harder to win a NESCAC championship than it is a national championship, but we'll certainly give it our best shot."

For seniors like Friedman, the sudden death postseason means any game could be their last, though Hamilton does have a chance of qualifying for the Division III tournament after conference play ends. Still, the senior captain is doing everything she can to keep her team's season going, as well as solidifying her legacy as one of the greatest scorers in school history.

"In order to beat Trinity, we need to come out fighting one hundred percent of the time. We have to be fired up but at the same time maintain composure. I think finishing my free position shots is something that is crucial to both my individual performance and the performance of the team. We need to come out on top of all 50-50 plays (ground balls, draw controls, etc.) Most importantly, we need to believe we can win and forget that they are the number one team in the nation. On any given day any one can win." Following Friedman's positive mentality, the NESCAC semifinals this Saturday are sure to be an exciting and memorable sporting event.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

May 2, 2013

Women's rugby dresses up the competition

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

Women's rugby faces Cornell in a scrum dressed to impress.

by Phoebe Greenwald '16
Sports Writer

This past Saturday was an auspicious day for HCWRFC. Indeed, many of us will remember the April 27 as a balmy, mid-sixty degrees day. But the spring weather was not the only highlight of the weekend. Rather, the pleasant afternoon provided the perfect backdrop for the much acclaimed annual "Prom Dress" face-off between Hamilton women's rugby and Cornell.

At 1 p.m. the ladies assembled, socks pulled up to their knees, faces set in a grim line, ready to face their ivy-league opposition in a true testament to strength and tackling prowess. All was solemn in those few moments preceding kickoff, save the slight flutter of prom dresses swinging in the breeze.

Each and every player wore a prom dress…or at least something of the prom persuasion. Some dresses had a slight 50s twist to them; others were reminiscent of medieval times or perhaps a grandmother's favorite summer dress.

Whatever the style, the game was the same. The match started out as ferocious as ever, and for much of the first half, the teams were head-to-head, balancing one try with another.

Packie Captain Hannah "Wags" Wagner '15 commented on the nature of the game, saying that "everyone took a few minutes to get into the game–it's really different to play in a dress." She went on to say that "after 20 minutes, we really stepped up and took control."

Take control they did. By the turn of the second half, Hamilton had a solid lead. The girls began to settle into their groove and overlook the peculiar feel of a fragile garment.

Casey Brown '16 scored the first try of the game—the first of her career—partway through the first half.

Wagner followed suit several minutes later with a memorable try. After a tenacious run down the field, Wagner's dress was torn entirely to pieces. She lamented "There is a whole new element to the game when you are wearing dresses. They definitely aren't as durable as our uniforms!" She reflects on her first try, saying, "at one point my dress got ripped off but I just kept running." Hannah Ferris '16 was impressed by the way Wagner did not stop even after losing part of her unusual attire. "It made the game so much more dramatic ... that is how you score a try," Ferris said proudly.

Kelly Foran '16 followed Wagner's success with another peculiar play. After kicking the

*see **Rugby** page 14*

The women's rugby team poses with pride after their annual prom dress game against Cornell last Saturday.

Teeing off success

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
News Editor

With the end of the semester fast approaching, the Hamilton men's and women's golf teams finished their spring seasons with high hopes for the fall. This past weekend, the men's team faced Trinity, Williams and Middlebury at the 2013 NESCAC Championships, held at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Kensington, CT, while its female counterpart competed at the 2013 Eastern College Athletic Conference Division II/III Championships at the Country Club of Ithaca. Ultimately, the Continental men tied for third place, and the women finished in fifth place.

The Hamilton men's golf team earned a spot in the 2013 NESCAC Championship this past October, when it finished in third place in the qualifier. This was the fifth time that the Continentals have competed in the event since the NESCAC League put a 10-team qualifier into place in the fall season and a four-team championship in the spring for the 2007-08 academic year. Previously, Hamilton has successfully placed second in the 2008 NESCAC Championship, third in 2009 and 2010 and fourth in 2012.

Team captain Greg Scott '14 finished second out of 20 golfers with a 2-over-144 on the par 71 layout, which measured 6,329 yards. His scores for the weekend consisted of a 73 on Saturday and a 71 on Sunday, his season-best. Brandon De Graff '14 finished at 157 (79-78), while Carter White '14 posted a 77 on Sunday. Mac Pivirotto '15 tied a career best with a pair of 75s for a two-day total of 150. NESCAC's 2012 Rookie of the Year Matt Yung '16 finished with a 77 on the first day and a 79 on the second day, reaching 156 in total.

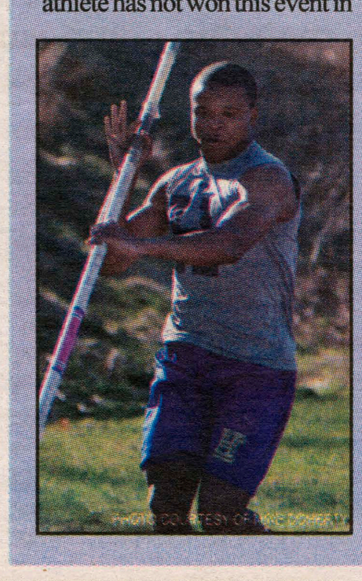
By the end of the weekend's tournament, Williams claimed the team title and received the conference's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Championship; their two-day total was 592. Host school Trinity College followed directly behind Williams in second place at 594,

*see **Golf**, page 14*

Athlete of the Week: Jimmy Alexis '13

by Sirianna Santacrose '15
Sports Editor

For someone so talented, men's track & field senior captain Jimmy Alexis maintains a levelheaded approach and modest attitude each time he enters an athletic competition. On April 27, he literally brought his collegiate career record to new heights when he earned the title of Men's Pole Vaulting Champion at the NESCAC Outdoor Championships hosted by Tufts University. A Hamilton athlete has not won this event in the NESCACs since 2009. Alexis reached a height of 4.45 meters, which was 0.15 meters higher than the runner-up from Bates attained.



Alexis described the event as "bitter sweet" because while it felt great to win, this was his first time competing since a hamstring injury left him unable to compete after the first meet of the season. Therefore, Alexis had to work very hard to stay in shape off the runway. He kept his strength up by doing pull ups and acrobatics on the high bar, as well as trampoline and pool workouts. Obviously, all of his hard work paid off last weekend. Alexis felt that earning the title of Pole Vault Champion "is a true honor," especially because the NESCACs are more competitive than states.

However, Alexis sees this strong performance as just one step in the direction of his ultimate goal for the season: getting to nationals. He said that prior to this season, "my goal was to win NESCACs; it was always something I wanted." But, having started off this season performing better than ever, Alexis admited that his goals for the season began to shift. "I started to look past NESCACs." He added that, "though I was happy to win, at the same time I want to get to nationals."

Having run cross-country in high school, Alexis started his collegiate athletic career at Hamilton sprinting. However, he has also been pole vaulting since his sophomore year of high school. After the coach approached him one day asking him to consider competing to defend the district's titles and earn points for their school, Alexis decided it was time to aim his talents in a new direction.

While Coach Brett Hull was impressed by Alexis' performance, it did not come as a surprise. "In the past he has been able to overcome such injuries and perform well ... it was a pleasure to see him... persevere and win the NESCAC title." Additionally, Hull praises Alexis for his leadership role on the team. Hull said, "he is the type of glue that holds the team together ... He's always had an infectious personality and used that to lead his peers."

After recovering from his injury, Alexis has conquered NESCAC and his possibilities for postseason are endless.